

NEWS RELEASE

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

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BILL LEONARD Member, BOE Second District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA TAX SERVICE CENTER: VIRTUAL ONE-STOP SHOP FOR TAXPAYERS

Three Tax Agencies Join to Create Streamlined Help Site

Noting that two weeks remain in the tax filing season, Bill Leonard, Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), along with other state tax officials today unveiled the newly refreshed California Tax Service Center at www.taxes.ca.gov. The Center integrates information from the BOE, the Employment Development Department (EDD), and the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), allowing the user to easily browse resources and quickly find important information, forms and publications.

RAMON J. HIRSIG Executive Director

The EDD collects payroll taxes, the FTB collects income and franchise tax, and the BOE is responsible for collecting California sales and use tax along with a variety of special taxes and fees. The BOE is also responsible for overseeing property tax assessment across the state.

The website's tab format allows users to quickly gain access to all tax information in a one-stop tax service center. Users may navigate from income to sales, or property to payroll tax, without leaving the website or contacting individual agencies. It also features a home page calendar with filing deadlines and educational seminars for those seeking expert advice on California tax law. Links to information on the individual tax agency websites can be accessed seamlessly from the site.

State Chief Information Officer Clark Kelso also attended the website's unveiling. "I am pleased to see California's separate taxing agencies working together to improve online services and provide the state's taxpayers with better, more convenient access to information about California taxes," said Kelso. "When government agencies work collaboratively to improve services to the public, everyone wins."

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was elected to his first term as Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in 2002. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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